Dr. Joseph R. Houchins fired from Census Bureau

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WASHINGTON

Dr. Joseph R. Houchins, 4919 Just st., ne, has been fired from his job as an analytical statistical expert in the Bureau of the Census. Dr. Houchins, a Grade 11 career employee, has been the nation's top expert on minority group statistics since taking over his post in September, 1939. He has 18 years' service in the Department of Commerce.

The post held by Dr. Houchins is being abolished and Commerce officials told the AFRO Thursday that it will not be filled. They say that appropriation cuts are responsible for the "rif" action on Dr. Houchins. Nov. 25 is his last day at Census.

Lacks Vets Preference

"If he had held veterans' preference status, he would have been in an impregnable position," Perry W. Shepherd told the AFRO. Mr. Shepherd is assistant chief of the Personnel Division of the Bureau of the Census.

However, Carl Haywood, director of Personnel from the Department of Commerce proper, told the AFRO: "the door is not closed on Dr. Houchins. We will keep looking around to try to place him." He was joined in this assurance by Leslie Pitchford Jr., executive assistant to the Secretary of Commerce.

Meanwhile, Clarence Mitchell, director of the Washington bureau of the NAACP, wired a vigorous protest to the Commerce Department against the firing of Dr. Houchins, declaring that the action was typical of the pattern of racial discrimination being shown in the Federal "rif" policy now being carried out.

Census officials denied this. A. W. Von Struve, public information officer for Census, said that "Dr. Houchins is an unfortunate victim of circumstances." He said that the reduction-in-force program in the Bureau had "bumped" other Census employees who had no veterans' preference, and cited one case as an employee with 42 years' service.

Mr. Vone Struve said that Dr. Houchins' section—Colored Statistics Section—was discontinued a year ago and Dr. Houchins had been absorbed into the regular work of the Bureau. An appropriation cut of $11 million by the last session of Congress forced almost 700 "rifs" in the Bureau of Census, Mr. Von Struve said, and he had further bad news for Census employees: there will be still more reductions-in-force, some within the next 60 days.

Of the 1486 employees now on the Census payroll in Washington, there are 1,003 whites, 473 colored, and 10 of other races. Key to Dr. Houchins dismissal did not lay in any dissatisfaction with his work or activities, Mr. Von Struve said. He spoke highly of Dr. Houchins in every way, but declared that the present method of effecting "rifs" and replacements was causing the dismissal of Dr. Houchins.

11-28-53

Native Of New York

Dr. Houchins, a native of New York, entered the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in Oct. 1935. In sept. 1939 he transferred to Census.

Asked if there were any political implications in the firing of Dr. Houchins, or whether he is being displaced to make room for some colored Republican, Mr. Haywood said that this is emphatically not the case. The post is being abolished, and that's that, he said. Colored statistics will be processed through existing channels, the officials added. Dr. Houchins had no comment on his dismissal, other than to confirm that he had received his notice.

The Negro population of the nation is steadily drifting away from farms and into cities and industrial centers. Negro population of the USA shown in the 1950 census, was 15,482,000 and is now probably above the 17,000,000 mark. New York City's Negro population in 1940 was only 458,000 but is now well above the million mark. Chicago has about 560,000 Negroes and Detroit has more than a half million. Present Negro population of Los Angeles is 240,000.

U. S. Population Rises at Greater Rate Than India's

WASHINGTON, July 12—(AP)—The population Reference Bureau said today that the population of the United States is mounting at a faster rate than that of India or of the world as a whole.

It said there is a net gain of one person every 13 seconds nearly 300 every hour and more than 2,000,000 a year.

The bureau estimated that by 1975 the U. S. population will be at least 190,000,000 and that by the year 2000 it will be well over 200,000,000.

It issued the report in connection with a warning that the nation is depleting its natural resources at "a suicidal rate."

Farm Population Down

The latest report from the Bureau of the Census shows that in the ten-year period beginning April 1940, farm population dropped over 5,500,000. According to the latest, revised figures farm population in 1950 stood at 25,058,000, as compared to 30,547,000, as of 1940.

It is interesting to note that the downward trend in farm population has continued steadily since World War I, when — in 1916 — it reached its peak, an estimated 32,440,000. When the depression of the early 1930's reached its height, the trend away from the farm was stopped and farm population actually began rising until 1935. It had gone back up to 32,393,000 at that time. But from 1935 the trend has been downward.

Significant in this connection is the fact that farm production has been maintained at record levels, many crops in recent years having set all-time records. This reflects the age of mechanized farming, since farm labor has been greatly reduced in recent years. The total farm labor force in 1952 was estimated at 8,880,000, which compares with a 9,098,000 estimated force in 1951.

Thus the farm labor force is continuing to decline, although this apparently has little relation to total production figures. It is interesting to note that unemployment on the farms increased in 1952, over 1951, even though the total labor force was down from that of 1951.

The trend in the country is clear. Citizens are moving from the farms to the towns and cities and, as a result, the farmer will represent a smaller percentage of the total population.

Nine States Lose Population

The Census Bureau reported recently that nine of the forty-eight states lost population between April, 1950 and July 1st, 1952. The country, as a whole, experienced a national population increase for the twenty-seven month period of 3.4 per cent.

This rate of increase amounts to an annual increase of almost a million and a half inhabitants. This rate of increase is obviously a healthy one, reflecting the fact that in states where the population declined, the primary reason was an exodus of inhabitants to other states.

In this connection, the largest population increase made by any state was registered by California, which gained 804,000 inhabitants in the twenty-seven-month period. Texas came next with a gain of 477,000, while New York was third with 348,000. Michigan and Florida both gained over 300,000, although the states of Florida, Arizona and Nevada led in percentage increases, each state gaining over ten per cent.

Of the nine states which lost population, six were in the South. They were Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, West Virginia, Maine, Vermont and North Dakota. Alabama's loss was the greatest, percentage-wise, and is estimated at four per cent. Mississippi's loss is estimated at three per cent; Maine at 3.3 per cent and North Dakota's loss at 3.2 per cent—the highest percentage losses among the states losing population.

Southern Non-Whites Increase Less In Decade

MIAMI—In the South Atlantic and South Central states the net gain in non-white population between 1940 and 1950 was only 3.4 per cent, far less than the general gain which was the white population increased by 16.4 per cent.

They Grow Together

Population and Income

Last week, the United States Census Bureau's "Census Clock" hit the 160,000,000 mark. The figures show the nation's population and personal income (before taxes) from 1929 through the depression years and World War II to the present record levels. Population was up approximately 33 per cent and personal income more than trebled.

	POPULATION	PERSONAL INCOME
1929	121,881,000	$85,127,000,000
1930	123,188,000	76,195,000,000
1931	124,149,000	64,835,000,000
1932	124,949,000	49,274,000,000
1933	125,690,000	46,629,000,000
1934	126,485,000	53,230,000,000
1935	127,362,000	59,861,000,000
1936	128,181,000	68,353,000,000
1937	128,961,000	73,976,000,000
1938	129,969,000	68,327,000,000
1939	131,028,000	72,607,000,000
1940	132,114,000	78,347,000,000
1941	133,377,000	95,308,000,000
1942	134,831,000	122,721,000,000
1943	136,719,000	150,286,000,000
1944	138,390,000	165,892,000,000
1945	139,934,000	171,927,000,000
1946	141,398,000	177,724,000,000
1947	144,129,000	191,000,000,000
1948	146,621,000	209,494,000,000
1949	149,149,000	205,867,000,000
1950	151,677,000	226,706,000,000
1951	154,360,000	254,327,000,000
1952	158,448,000	269,660,000,000
1953	160,000,000	*284,500,000,000

*Estimated for year on basis of 2d quarter.

Negro Population Gains In South

Despite a pronounced movement out of the South between 1940 and 1950, Dixie still has two-thirds of the nation's Negro population.

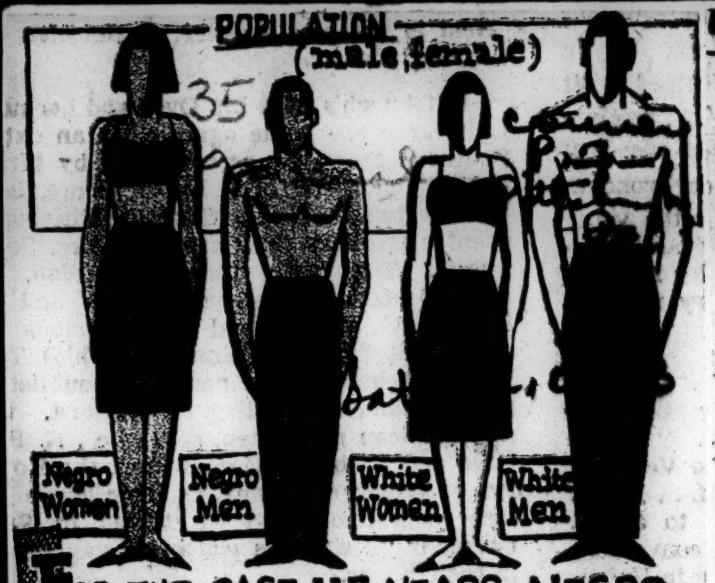
Negro population increased by 3.2 per cent down here while jumping by 62.7 per cent elsewhere over the country.

New York, the state with the largest Negro population outside the South, was outranked by five Southern states: Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas.

Though California retains the largest number of Japanese residents, war-time relocation brought an increase of almost 400 per cent in the Northeastern, North Central and Southern states.

Chinese population in the South increased by 112 per cent during the decade 1940-50.

The native white population of the country in 1950 was 82 per cent of the total.



FOR THE PAST 113 YEARS, NEGRO WOMEN HAVE OUTNUMBERED NEGRO MEN. IN 1940 THERE WAS A SURPLUS OF 1,240,529 WOMEN. IN 1950, HOWEVER, THERE WERE 7,810,000 WOMEN TO 7,672,000. THE NORTH HAD 908 MEN AND THE SOUTH 979 PER 1000 AND THE FAR WEST 1046 MEN PER 1000 WOMEN. ON THE OTHER HAND, WHITE MEN OUTNUMBERED WHITE WOMEN UNTIL 1940. THE 1950 CENSUS GIVES 1,431,000 MORE WHITE WOMEN THAN WHITE MEN. WITH INCREASING WARS, THE ENTIRE FEMALE POPULATION MIGHT INCREASE UNTIL IT IS LIKE THAT OF EUROPE.

U.S. Total 155,767,000

Population of Florida Jumps to 3,112,000

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The Census Bureau says the population of the 48 states and the District of Columbia increased by 5,070,000 from April 1, 1950 to July 1, 1952, despite losses in 10 states.

The population was estimated at 155,767,000 on the latter date, compared to the 150,697,361 counted in the 1950 census.

Florida population gained about 340,000 from 2,771,305 to 3,112,000—a 12.3 per cent increase.

Arizona's population shot up an estimated 121,000 to 871,000 people, a growth of 16.2 per cent—greater than any other state.

California's population growth topped the country numerically, increasing by 965,000, or 9 per cent, to 11,542,000, solidifying its position as the country's second biggest state in number of inhabitants. New York, the nation's biggest, grew 281,000 to 15,111,000 an increase of 1.9 per cent.

The 10 states which showed declines (with 1952 estimates and 1950 actual figures, in that order):

Maine—892,000 and 913,774; New Hampshire—532,000 and 377,747; Iowa—2,608,000 and 2,621,077; North Dakota—602,000 and 619,636; Tennessee—3,260,000 and 3,291,718; Mississippi—2,164,000 and 2,178,914; Arkansas—1,844,000 and 1,909,511; Oklahoma—2,224,000 and 2,233,351; West Virginia—1,970,000 and 2,005,552.

35 1953

Georgia Gains 320,855 Persons In 10-Year Period

Atlanta Daily World

Georgia gained 320,855 persons from 1940 to 1950, according to U. S. Census Bureau figures. A 1

The Department of Commerce in Atlanta estimates this increase at 10.3 per cent. Jla. 6-30-53

The report said 910,000 persons were born in Georgia during the decade. 300,000 people died. 290,000 moved out of the state.

Babies are born in Geor ev-
ery six minutes of the d and
night, according to the f s.

Among all 48 states, on rth
Dakota, Mississippi, Arka nd
Oklahoma showed a de
population during this p

California registered a
cent gain. Arizona gai
cent, and Florida incre
cent.

MAD FLIGHT FROM EGYPT (DIXIE):

500,000 Migrants Settle In Chicago, Census Shows

CHICAGO (ANP) — Migrations —primarily from the South — have swelled Chicago's colored population to a record 14 per cent of the total census, a new study of this city revealed last week.

This figure marks a vast increase over a 30-year period. In 1920, the city was 4 per cent colored. The present 14 per cent represents more than 500,000 colored citizens who live on the Southside in this lakeside metropolis.

The latest study on population was released by the Metropolitan housing and planning council of Chicago. A series of maps also are included in it.

'Black Ghetto' Erased

Whereas these citizens formerly lived in well-defined areas here, they now are spreading out into previously all-white neighborhoods.

This move, which has occurred mainly since the war, has seen the breakdown of the once "black ghetto" and the creation of small "islands" throughout the city.

One of the reasons for this inundation is a decision in 1948 of the U. S. Supreme Court, declaring restrictive covenants affecting property unenforcible.

Since the war, colored citizens began bursting out of the most densely populated areas in Chicago, moving into the ultra-smart Hyde Park, Kenwood and Oak Manor districts and certain areas on the west side and north side.

Gain Political Power

As colored residents came in, white persons began moving out, many going to the suburbs or to small towns surrounding Chicago. This has meant that colored citizens have gained an increasing voice in city government affairs.

However, Fred Kramer, president of the council which made the study, warned that Chicago "will become one huge blighted area" if present trends continue.

Chicago Negroes Number 500,000

CHICAGO (ANP) — Migrations—primarily from the South —have swelled Chicago's Negro population to a record 14 per cent of the total census.

The figure marks a vast increase over a thirty-three-year period. In 1920, the city was 4 per cent colored. The present 14 per cent represents more than 500,000 Negroes who live on the South Side of this lakeside metropolis.

Census Figures Reveal 391,184 Employed

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BALTIMORE

Baltimore has 391,184 employed residents, according to final, detailed industry statistics from the 1950 [illegible] announced this week by District Supervisor George R. Winski of the Census Bureau's local office.

Work in manufacturing establishments accounted for 113,429 of the total while 70,902 were engaged in retail trade. Of those employed in manufacturing, 60,965 were engaged in the production of durable goods, such as wood and metal products and machinery.

A breakdown of the over-all figure on retail trade reveals that 11,703 worked in food and dairy products stores, 6,3[illegible] in apparel and shoe stores, and 13,912 in eating and drinking places.

Entertainment and recreation provided employment for 4,293 residents. Radio broadcasting and television had 450 workers; theaters and motion pictures, 1,336; bowling alleys, billiard and pool parlors, 515; and miscellaneous entertainment and recreation, 1,992.

Women made up most of the 33,072 workers in personal services. This was especially true among the 18,631 workers in private households, most of whom are maids, cooks and so forth.

The remainder of the workers in personal services were distributed as follows: 2,486 in hotels and lodging places, 6,750 in laundries and cleaning establishments, 287 in dressmaking shops, 653 in shoe repair shops, and 4,257 in miscellaneous personal service establishments.

Negroes Leave Oklahoma

Oklahoma, according to the 1950 census, just released, had a population drop in the past decade of 106.769. This huge decrease in population can be attributed largely to our lack of industrial life, as compared with other states, during the war period. It appears many, because of crop failures due to serious drouths, left the farm to seek other forms of employment, and that they discovered fairer fields outside of Oklahoma. Okies are now scattered all over the U. S., particularly in Arizona and California.

Citizens in the number of 23,757 who took French leave from Sooner soil were Negroes, leaving in Oklahoma at the present time a total population of 145,095. Incidentally, it might be pointed out that there are at the present time, according to the census, 6,115 more Negro women than men.

Eighty-five thousand, three hundred and thirty-five Oklahoma Negroes live in urban centers, which means that within fifty years as a state where the Negro population that was at one time almost 80 per cent rural, has left the farm and moved to the city, where prosperity is contingent upon industrial labor markets as contrasted with traditional contact with the soil and nature. It means Negroes in a large measure have released their farm holdings, and have many of them become renters in urban centers.

According to the compiler of the census, Negroes, being classified in many of the tables as non-whites, are classified along and together with Indians, Japanese and Chinese, but persons of Mexican ancestry, who by chance may not have any Indian blood in their veins, are designated as white.

Just what justification the census enumerators have in counting Negro nationals with foreigners is certainly not clear to the Black Dispatch, and it does seem in this complex racial situation in this country some standardization should be made respecting classification of this nature.

Take, for instance, in Oklahoma the constitution converts Indians into white people, and yet the U. S. Census Bureau gives them status with the blacks along with foreigners just enumerated. Indians and Negroes are among the first Americans and yet folk who got here in the Mayflower, in order to raise false standards respecting white people, dash an insult in the faces of the red and black man through this unreasonable classification.

This publication suspects the FBI would immediately become alerted if it were discovered Negroes were acting in concert with Chinese right here in Oklahoma, in some form, and yet the census bureau indicates very clearly in the report that lies before us there is some unexplained relationship between the two races. There is absolutely no reason why the census should designate people by color. Down in Brazil, where one third of the population is black, the census enumerators make no such division in the population. The government simply counts its nationals and lets the matter end there. It does seem the government should get as far along in its thinking as our U. S. graduate schools in this determination. We recall last year when this writer went to the University of Oklahoma to inquire the number of Negroes attending there, the attendant said it would be impossible to give that information because they compiled no statistics at the school relating to the color of the enrollees.

We suspect the drift of the Negro in Oklahoma from farm to the city is fairly representative of what is going on all over the United States. Especially in the Deep South terrorism in the rural areas has forced the inhibited blacks off the farms and into the small towns. Dixieland offers in a miniature way the same picture we find in Africa, where the blacks are ruthlessly driven from their native patrimony into compounds and forced to work for the white planter.

But we did not know conditions had obtained here in Oklahoma in various forms to systematically drive the Negro from rural life. Perhaps this is not a movement incident wholly to black life. We are inclined to assume this same trend is developing in rural white life also.

These statistics, however, should point directly to the need in changing our educational approach to Negroes. While integration is rapidly developing and separate schools may become extinct, if and when the Supreme Court of the United States acts affirmatively in the fight now being launched by the NAACP. But speaking of the matter as it relates to the present separate school set-up, we see no justification for the continuation of these majors in agriculture if the black man has left the farm and will henceforth hereafter live in urban centers.

What we need, to serve the trend exposed in the census reports, is to demand honest-to-God industrial training in all of the various fields offered in our schools. We know four boys who have just completed the high school course at Douglass High in Oklahoma City, who are desirous of taking engineering. In this endeavor they seem to be leading the faculty instead of the faculty leading them. Here is a chance to say to southern school boards we want to give Negro students industrial training for it is in these fields they will find their future occupational opportunities, in the new urban life where we find them. No need to practice agriculture on concrete, for that is where the black man is today. He has left the soil and is living on paved streets.